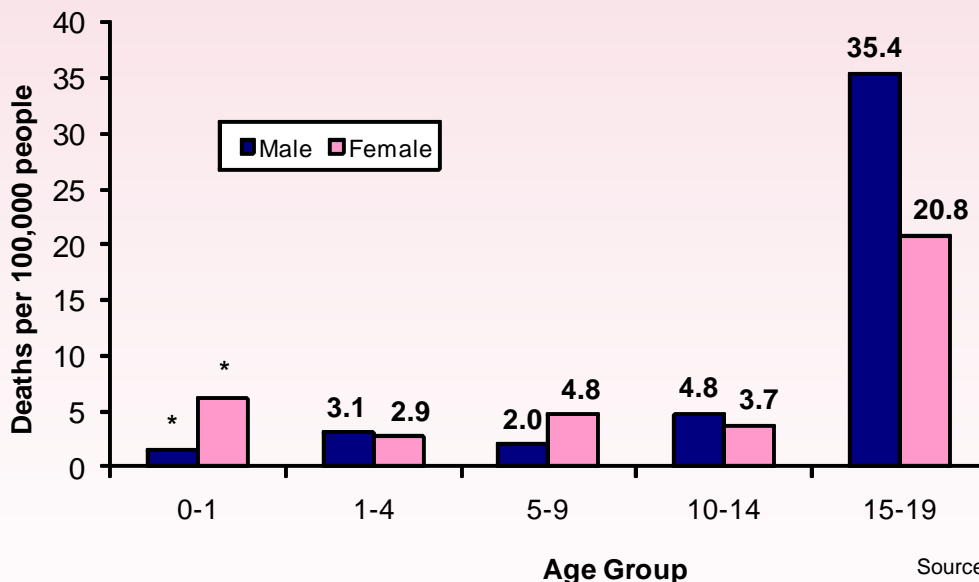


## CHILDHOOD MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH INJURIES

- **Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury deaths among Nebraska children**, contributing to the deaths of 50 children each year, on average.
- **Motor vehicle crashes were also the fourth leading cause of injury-related hospital visits for Nebraska children**, behind falls (#1), struck by or against (#2), and cut/pierce (#3) injuries.
- Deaths and hospital visits due to motor vehicle crash-related injuries were **highest among youth ages 15-19 years**.
- According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, in 2005 and 2007, about 1 in 3 Nebraska youth never, rarely or only sometimes wore a seatbelt while riding in a car driven by someone else. Within 30 days before the survey, nearly 1 in 5 Nebraska youth drove a car or other vehicle after drinking alcohol, and about 1 in 3 Nebraska youth rode in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

Motor vehicle crash injuries are preventable. Strategies to prevent motor vehicle crash-related injuries among youth include: (1) mass media campaigns focused on consequences of drinking and driving; (2) legislation, including graduated drivers' licensing and primary seat belt laws; and (3) obeying all traffic laws, including those for seat belt and child seat restraint use.

Figure 1: Motor Vehicle Traffic Death Rates by Age and Gender, Nebraska Residents Ages 0-19 years, 2003-2007 (n=251)



Source: NE Death Certificate Data, 2003-2007



For more information, contact the DHHS Injury Prevention and Control Program at (402) 471-2101 or visit [www.dhhs.ne.gov/hew/hpe/Injury](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/hew/hpe/Injury)